

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEBBURN
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Ninth Annual Report on the work of the School Medical Service in Hebburn. In accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Education the report is brief and deals only with essentials.

The School Clinic has been in operation throughout the year and I am quite satisfied that it has fully justified the action of the Committee in having established it. In my last report I drew your attention to the difficulty experienced in dealing with the large amount of clerical work which the Clinic involved, and I am glad to say that my request for clerical assistance has since been acceded to.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obedient servant,

E. E. Norman.

Hebburn,
May 1917.

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Unlike many districts it has been found possible in Hebburn to continue in its entirety the work of the School Medical Service. Some inconvenience has been caused through the teaching staff being reduced by the teachers enlisting and the difficulty experienced in filling their places.

The condition of the children generally was much the same as in former years but I am quite satisfied that as the result of so many mothers going to work, there has been a distinct deterioration in personal cleanliness and in the condition of the clothing. Wages have been abnormally high and labour very much in demand but the high wages have been rather more than counter balanced by the excessive increase in the price of all commodities, so that the economic condition of the average working class family is little if at all better now than in pre-war days. The employment in factories and work-shops of the mothers of young children is no doubt necessary at the present time but the fact remains that the children are perforce neglected. It is obvious that no woman who is employed from eight in the morning till five in the evening can give her family and home the attention they require and to meet this difficulty older children have sometimes been kept from school to do domestic work. In such cases the School Attendance Officers are allowed no discretion and prosecution is the next step and I would suggest that the time has arrived when rules and regulations drawn up for normal times and not always suited to present conditions might well be relaxed. I have personal knowledge (shared no doubt by the Committee) of several cases of real hardship of this kind where a girl's absence from school has incurred a penalty though her mother was laid up in child-bed and no one else was available or obtainable. It seems to me that the exercise of discretion in dealing with cases such as these would strengthen the Committee's arm in securing the regular attendance of those children whose absence is without excuse.

The number of children inspected was 1,498, of whom 762 were boys and 736 girls, and as usual were composed of the following classes. (a) Entrants, (b) 8 year group, and (c) Leavers. The children presented for special examination either by request of the parents or of the instance of the teachers are not included. Only a few mothers (about 27 per-cent) were present at the inspections which is quite in accordance with past experience and may under present circumstances be more readily condoned. Throughout the year scabies has been widely prevalent and has been largely responsible for a reduced average school attendance.

THE SCHOOL CLINIC.

(1) Inspection. 826 children were examined at the Clinic for the purpose of ascertaining their fitness or otherwise to attend school, of whom 357 were boys and 469 girls. 284 of these were found to be quite fit to attend school and were directed to do so; 542 were found unfit and were given periods of exclusion ranging from a few days to permanent exclusion in the case of active and infective Tuberculous disease. It must not be supposed that all of these children were ill, as a great many, such for example as those suffering from scabies were excluded for the sake of saving other children from infection.

(2) Treatment. At the treatment Clinic 755 children received attention, the total number of attendances being 1,750. They were composed of 274 boys and 481 girls, the girls being in a majority as I have previously pointed out owing to their greater prone-ness to septic conditions of the scalp. The following is a tabulated statement of the cases dealt with and the results achieved.

CLINIC STATISTICS.

Condition requiring Treatment.	No. remedied	No. under Treatment at end of year.
Otorrhoea.	72	11
Eye Disease. (External)	121	3
Scabies.	124	26
Tinea.	32	4
Impetigo.	169	---
Eczema.	57	1
Un-cleanliness of Head.	26	1
" " Body.	2.	---
Unclassified.	104	---
TOTALS.	707	46

BOYS. 274

GIRLS. 480

754

Total number of attendances. 1,750.

The chief difficulty experienced in connection with the School Clinic has been the unsuitable accomodation which the Health Office was able to afford. It has been surprising to see how readily many of the mothers have endured the discomfort of a prolonged wait on a draughty staircase for the purpose of having their children cured, but at the time of writing I am glad to say that there is an early prospect of suitable premises been secured as the intended establishment of a Maternity Centre and Infant Clinic will enable the same building to be used for the work of the School Clinic.

The Summer-time Act may be expected to exercise an important influence on the health of the community and especially of the children and on the whole there is no doubt that it has produced a distinctly beneficial effect. But the long hours of sunshine often mean that children are allowed to play until late into the night and in consequence lose hours of sleep. Insufficieny of sleep will reduce the physique and undermine the stamina of growing children more rapidly than any other single factor and it would be well if this condition were to receive from both parents and teachers the attention its importance deserves.

As mentioned above Scabies has been very much in evidence and in spite of printed instructions and remedies supplied gratis many cases have persisted week after week and even month after month. This may appear strange in the case of a disease so readily curable as Scabies and is to be explained usually by "re-infection" at home which can hardly be prevented in over-crowded houses with two or more sleeping in the same bed. It is not difficult to know whether or not the directions are being followed and a real attempt at cure made, and where there is obvious neglect and indifference stern measures are called for. In three such cases the Education Committee instituted legal proceedings under Section 12 of the Children's Act of 19 and in each case a conviction was secured the Magistrates imposing fines of one pound in each of two cases and three pounds in the third and worst case. At the same time a man was fined one pound for allowing his child a girl of thirteen to continue in a dirty and verminous condition. In all of these cases the parents had had repeated warnings and several visits by the School Nurse together with the fullest written and verbal instructions all of which were disregarded and ignored.

In the following tables will be found the usual Tables showing in detail the condition of the children and the defects noted.

TABLE A. CONDITION OF CHILDREN - ENTRANTS.

School.	Sex.	No. examined.	Cleanliness Head.			Cleanliness Body.			Clothing & Footgear.			Nutrition.		
			G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.
New Town Co	Boys	78	62	14	2	59	18	1	46	23	9	49	27	2
	Girls	94	53	26	15	72	20	2	60	29	5	62	27	5.
Quay Co.	Boys	56	42	13	1	45	10	1	35	19	2	35	18	3
	Girls	50	21	21	8	37	12	1	33	16	1	30	17	3
Colliery Co	Boys	46	41	5	0	38	8	0	40	5	1	32	11	3
	Girls	49	30	17	2	37	11	1	39	9	1	33	11	5
Roman Cath.	Boys	67	50	14	3	47	19	1	40	20	7	44	20	3
	Girls	58	23	24	11	41	17	0	37	15	6	39	15	4
Wesleyan	Boys	10	9	1	0	8	2	0	10	0	0	7	3	0
	Girls	5	4	0	1	4	1	0	4	1	0	4	0	1
St.Oswalds	Boys	21	16	4	1	16	5	0	18	3	0	15	5	1
	Girls	27	15	7	5	21	6	0	21	6	0	18	6	3
Totals.	Boys	278	220	51	7	213	62	3	189	70	19	182	84	72.
	Girls	283	146	95	42	212	67	4	194	76	13	186	76	21.

TABLE A. CONDITION OF CHILDREN - ENTRANTS.

School.	Sex.	Teeth			Vision			Speech			Hearing.		
		G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.
New Town Co.	Boys	29	14	35	-	-	-	70	6	2	74	4	0
	Girls	53	13	28	-	-	-	89	2	3	88	3	3
Quay Co.	Boys.	31	8	17	-	-	-	49	5	2	55	0	1
	Girls	26	11	13	-	-	-	45	4	1	46	3	1
Colliery Co.	Boys	14	12	20	-	-	-	42	3	1	43	2	1
	Girls	15	11	23	-	-	-	46	3	0	48	1	0
Roman Catholic	Boys	23	14	30	-	-	-	63	4	0	59	7	1
	Girls	21	14	23	-	-	-	56	2	0	52	4	2
Wesleyan	Boys	3	3	4	-	-	-	9	0	1	9	1	0
	Girls	2	2	1	-	-	-	5	0	0	5	0	0
St. Oswalds.	Boys	5	5	11	-	-	-	20	1	0	21	0	0
	Girls	8	7	12	-	-	-	26	1	0	24	3	0
Totals.	Boys	105	56	117	-	-	-	253	19	6	261	14	3
	Girls.	125	58	100	-	-	-	267	12	4	263	14	6

TABLE B. RESULTS OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION - ENTRANTS.

School	Sex.	No Examined.	Enlarged Tonsils.	Adenoids.	(Squint)	External Eye.	Discharging Ears.	Rickets.	Pulmonary	Glandular	Joint.	Tubercle Skin Diseases			No. of parents present.	Heart affections	Other diseases or defects.
New Town Co.	Boys	78	28	3	1	4	4	1	2	-	-	1	-	31	2	13	
	Girls	94	30	7	4	3	3	1	1	-	1	1	3	39	1	16	
Quay.	Boys	56	5	3	2	4	-	-	1	-	1	1	4	18	-	5	
	Girls	50	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	16	-	2	
Colliery	Boys	46	19	2	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	18	1	13	
	Girls	49	14	0	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	24	1	4	
Roman Catholic.	Boys	67	17	0	2	3	-	2	-	-	-	1	4	19	1	11	
	Girls	58	13	2	3	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	27	1	9	
Wesleyan	Boys	10	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	0	3	
	Girls	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	
St.Oswald's	Boys	21	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	-	5	
	Girls	27	3	3	1	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	10	2	3	
		278	78	8	9	11	5	3	4	-	1	3	10	98	4	50	
		283	268	14	14	9	5	1	3	-	1	3	8	98	5	46	

TABLE "C"

Condition of Children - Age 8

School	Sex	No. Exd.	Cleanliness Head			Cleanliness Body			Clothing & Footgear			Nutrition		
			G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.
New Town Co.	Boys	77	54	20	3	51	24	2	35	28	14	49	24	4
	Girls	79	33	31	15	58	19	2	46	25	8	49	21	9
Quay Co	Boys	42	36	6	-	33	9	-	25	11	6	21	17	4
	Girls	55	24	23	8	44	11	-	38	15	2	39	16	-
Colliery Co.	Boys	35	27	2	6	26	5	4	30	4	1	21	11	-
	Girls	22	6	15	1	18	4	-	22	-	-	8	12	-
Roman Cath	Boys	35	28	7	-	24	11	-	23	7	5	21	13	1
	Girls	33	10	19	4	24	9	-	22	8	3	16	15	2
Wesleyan	Boys	15	15	-	-	15	-	-	15	-	-	11	4	-
	Girls	7	6	1	-	7	-	-	7	-	-	6	1	-
St Oswald's	Boys	30	24	6	-	23	7	-	21	7	2	12	13	5
	Girls	25	17	7	1	24	1	-	18	7	-	16	8	1
Totals	Boys	234	184	41	9	172	56	6	149	57	28	135	82	17
	Girls	221	96	96	22	175	44	2	153	55	19	134	73	14

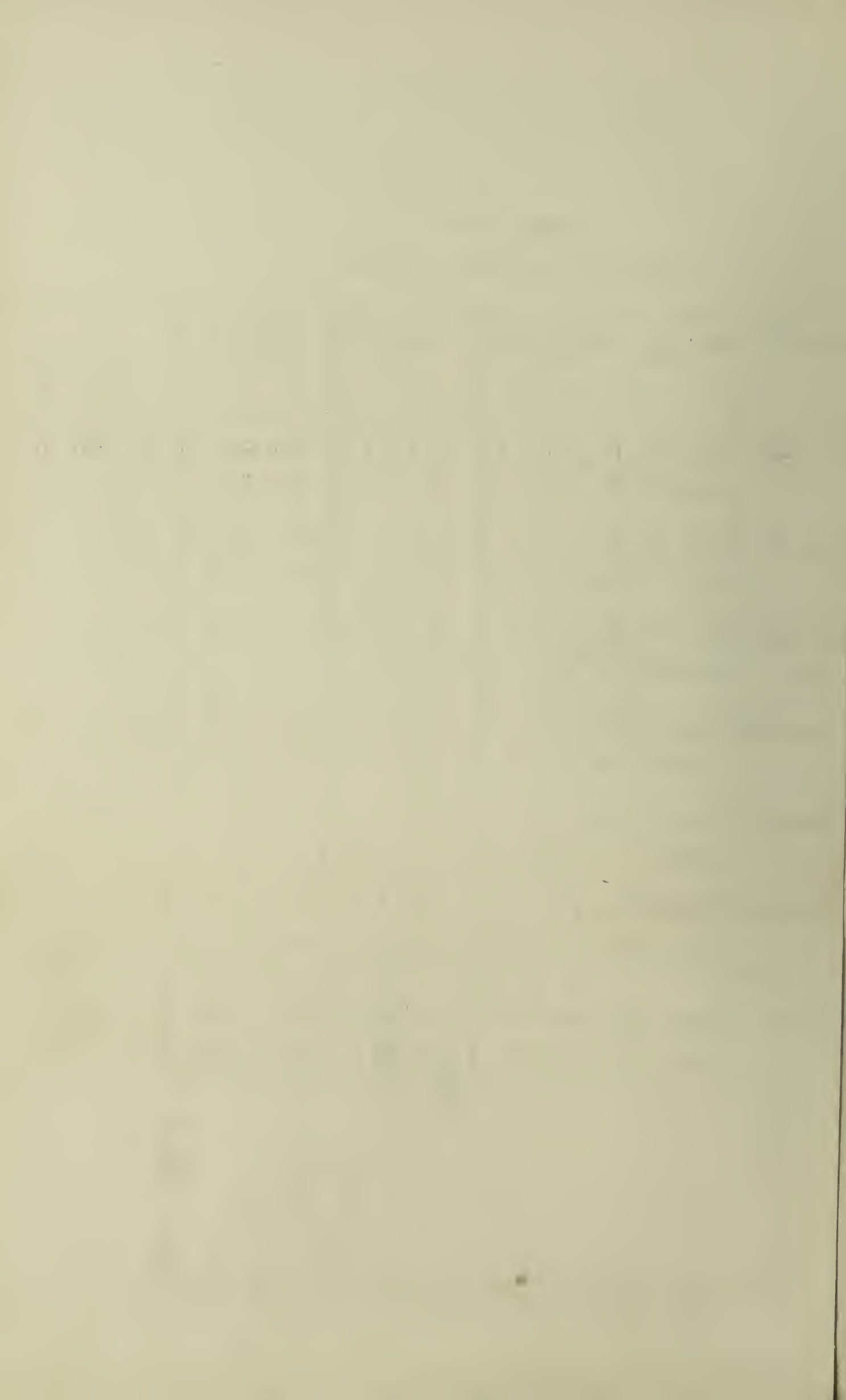


TABLE C
Condition of Children Age 8

School	Sex	No Exd	Teeth			Vision			Speech			Hearing		
			G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.
New Town Co.	Boys	77	40	14	23	52	18	7	73	4	0	70	6	1
	Girls	79	25	19	35	46	27	6	79	0	0	79	0	0
Quay Co.	Boys	42	23	7	12	41	0	1	40	2	0	37	5	0
	Girls	55	19	21	15	55	0	0	55	0	0	54	1	0
Colliery Co.	Boys	35	21	4	10	23	8	4	31	4	0	32	3	0
	Girls	22	9	5	8	21	1	0	21	1	0	21	1	0
Roman Cath,	Boys	35	17	6	12	35	0	0	34	1	0	33	2	0
	Girls	33	14	9	10	33	0	0	33	0	0	31	2	0
Wesleyan	Boys	15	6	2	7	11	3	1	14	1	0	14	1	0
	Girls	7	1	1	5	5	1	1	7	0	0	6	0	1
St.Oswalds	Boys	30	7	7	16	16	9	5	30	0	0	30	0	0
	Girls	25	10	4	11	12	7	6	25	0	0	25	0	0
Totals		234	114	40	70	178	38	18	212	12	0	216	17	1
		221	78	59	84	172	36	13	220	1	0	216	4	1

TABLE D

Results of Medical Examination - Age 8

School	Sex	No. Exd.	Enl'd Tonsils	Adenoids	Ex. Eye Defect (Squint)	Dischg. Ears	Rickets	Pulmonary	Glandular	Joint	Ringworm	Itch	Impetigo	No. of parents present	Heart affections	Other dis- eases & defects.
New Town	Boys	77	17	3	-	1	4	2	1	-	-	1	5	18	2	15
	Girls	79	28	-	5	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	4	16	3	11
Quay Co	Boys	42	2	3	2	5	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	11	-	7
	Girls	55	5	5	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	20	-	4
Colliery	Boys	35	19	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	1	4
	Girls	22	8	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	2
Roman Catholic	Boys	35	7	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	4	1	6
	Girls	33	9	-	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	6	-	5
Wesleyan	Boys	15	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	2
	Girls	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	2
St. Oswalds	Boys	30	10	1	-	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	10	-	3
	Girls	25	7	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	7	-	4
Totals		234	62	10	3	12	9	4	4	1	-	2	9	56	4	37
		221	59	5	13	6	5	1	3	0		0	12	66	3	26

TABLE E
Condition of Children - Leavers.

School	Sex	No. Exd.	Cleanliness Head			Cleanliness Body			Clothing & Foot- Gear			Nutrition		
			G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.
New Town	Boys	75	64	9	2	49	24	2	33	28	14	47	24	4
	Girls	63	39	16	8	49	14	0	38	16	9	46	14	3
Quay Co.	Boys	39	28	11	0	24	14	1	20	4	15	26	11	2
	Girls	55	29	21	5	46	9	0	40	11	4	35	17	3
Colliery	Boys	27	22	5	0	20	7	0	25	2	0	17	8	2
	Girls	28	14	14	0	24	4	0	27	1	0	19	8	1
Roman Cath.	Boys	59	37	19	3	29	29	1	25	17	17	35	16	8
	Girls	40	12	20	8	30	10	0	22	14	4	27	11	2
Wesleyan	Boys	4	4	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0
	Girls	5	4	1	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	4	1	0
St. Oswald's	Boys	46	42	4	0	35	11	0	30	16	0	27	16	3
	Girls	41	23	14	4	37	4	0	33	8	0	24	15	2
Totals	Boys	250	197	48	5	161	85	4	137	67	46	156	75	19
	Girls	232	121	86	25	191	41	0	165	50	17	155	66	11

TABLE "E"
Condition of Children - Leavers

School	Sex	No. Exd.	Teeth			Vision			Speech			Hearing		
			G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.
New Town	Boys	75	38	14	23	50	18	7	71	4	-	68	6	1
	Girls	63	30	14	9	38	14	11	63	-	-	62	1	-
Quay Co.	Boys	39	20	13	6	30	6	3	38	1	-	37	2	-
	Girls	55	35	9	11	41	8	4	53	2	-	49	6	-
Colliery	Boys	27	15	8	4	22	3	2	25	1	1	25	2	-
	Girls	28	14	12	2	27	-	1	28	-	-	28	-	-
Roman Cath	Boys	59	28	16	15	33	14	2	57	2	-	54	3	2
	Girls	40	24	9	7	18	14	8	40	-	-	37	3	-
Wesleyan	Boys	4	2	1	1	3	0	1	4	-	-	3	1	-
	Girls	5	4	1	-	4	1	-	5	-	-	4	1	-
St Oswalds	Boys	46	19	14	13	28	11	7	45	1	-	44	2	-
	Girls	41	20	13	8	26	9	6	39	1	-	35	5	1
Totals	Boys	250	122	66	22	175	46	19	240	9	1	231	16	3
	Girls	232	127	58	47	166	39	27	228	3	1	215	16	1

TABLE "F"

Result of Medical Examination - Leavers

Tubercle Skin Diseases

School	Sex	No.	Exd	Enlgd. Tonsils	Adenoids	Ex. Eye Defect (Squint)	Dischg. Ears	Rickets	Pulmonary	Glandular	Joint	Ringworm	Itch	Impetigo	No. present	Heart Affection	Other Dis- eases & Defects
New Town	Boys	75		20	3	1	8	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	12	2	8
	Girls	63		10	-	3	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	9	1	7
Quay Co	Boys	39		-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	6	-	6
	Girls	55		5	5	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	20	-	4
Colliery Co.	Boys	27		10	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	4
	Girls	28		18	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	0	5	-	4
Rom. Cath	Boys	59		8	0	1	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	8	1	7
	Girls	40		12	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	1	8
Wesleyan	Boys	4		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Girls	5		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
St Oswalds	Boys	46		10	-	3	5	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	4	2	8
	Girls	41		12	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	7	1	6
Total	Boys	250		49	4	5	22	7	1	3	-	-	2	6	37	5	33
	Girls	232		58	7	7	8	3	-	3	1	-	1	6	48	3	29

Summary A. Condition of Children.

Stage	Table	Sex	No. exam ined	Cleanli- ness Head			Cleanliness Body.			Clothing & Footgear			Nutrition		
				G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.
Entrants	A	Boys	278	220	51	7	213	62	3	189	70	19	182	84	12
		Girls	283	146	95	42	212	67	4	194	76	13	186	76	21
Age 8.	C	Boys	234	184	41	9	172	56	6	149	57	28	135	82	17
		Girls	221	96	96	29	175	44	2	153	55	13	134	73	14
Leavers	E	Boys	250	197	48	5	161	85	4	137	67	46	156	75	19
		Girls	232	121	86	25	191	41	0	165	50	17	155	66	11
Totals		Boys	762	601	140	21	546	203	13	475	194	93	473	241	48
		Girls	736	363	277	96	578	152	6	512	181	43	475	215	46
Total.			1498	964	417	117	1124	355	19	987	375	136	948	456	94

Summary A. Condition of Children.

Stage	Table	Sex	Teeth			Vision.			Speech			Hearing.		
			G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.	G.	F.	B.
Entrants	A	Boys	105	56	117	0	0	0	253	19	6	261	14	3
		Girls	125	58	190	0	0	0	267	12	4	263	14	6
Age 8	C	Boys	114	40	80	178	38	18	222	12	0	216	17	1
		Girls	78	59	84	172	36	13	220	1	0	216	4	1
Leavers	E	Boys	122	66	62	175	46	19	240	9	1	231	16	3
		Girls	137	58	47	166	39	27	228	3	1	215	16	1
Totals.		Boys	341	162	259	353	84	37	715	40	7	708	47	7
		Girls	340	175	221	338	75	37	715	16	5	694	34	8
Total.			681	337	480	691	159	74	1430	56	12	1402	81	15.

Summary B. Results of Medical Examination.

Stage	Table.	Sex	No. examined	Enlarged Tonsils.	Adenoids.	External Eye Defect (Squint)	Discharging Ears.	Rickets.	Pulmonary	Glandular	Joint.	Ringworm	Itch	Impetigo	No. of parents present.	Heart Affections	Other Dis- eases & Defects.
Entrants	B	Boys	278	78	8	9	11	5	3	4	0	1	3	10	98	4	50
		Girls	283	268	14	14	9	5	1	3	0	1	3	8	98	5	46
Age 8	D	Boys	234	62	10	3	12	9	4	4	1	0	2	9	56	4	37
		Girls	221	59	5	13	6	5	1	3	0	0	0	12	66	3	26
Leavers	F	Boys	250	49	4	5	22	7	1	3	0	0	2	6	37	5	33
		Girls	232	58	7	7	8	3	0	3	1	0	1	6	48	3	29
Totals.		Boys	762	189	22	17	45	21	8	11	1	1	7	25	191	13	120
		Girls	736	385	26	34	23	13	2	9	1	1	4	26	212	11	101
Total.			1498	574	48	51	68	34	10	20	2	2	11	51	403	24	221

